

CONFIDENTIAL

COCOM DOC. NUMBER 3983

April 28, 1960

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM FROM THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION

CONCERNING

THE SUPPLY OF TECHNICAL DATA TO THE SOVIET UNION

FOR THE PRODUCTION OF POLYESTER FILM

1. The United States Delegation refers to COCOM Document 3581, June 22, 1959, in which the Committee was informed that United States authorities had rejected an application for the export to the Soviet Union of technical data for equipment used in the production of polyester film embargoed under Item 1920. United States authorities had believed that Administrative Principle No. 5 was applicable to the proposed export of such technical data.
2. More recently, applications have again been filed with United States licensing authorities requesting approval for the export to the Soviet Union of technical data which would be used in the construction of two polyester film production plants. The proposed exports were valued at more than \$750,000. The first of these plants would have a capacity of 9080 kgs. per 24 hours of finished polyester film varying in gauge from 5 to 150 microns. The second (pilot) plant would have a capacity of 908 kgs. per 24 hours of finished polyester film varying in gauge from 5 to 10 microns.
3. United States authorities concluded, after carefully studying these proposed exports, that denial of these applications would prevent -- or, at least, significantly delay -- construction in the Soviet Union of plants capable of producing polyester film. Furthermore, since polyester film of 38 microns or less is covered by IL 1920, and since such film is within the gauge range to be produced, the technical data in question were believed by United States authorities to be under embargo, by virtue of Administrative Principle No. 5.
4. Similar technical data are believed to be available from other Free World Countries. Should efforts be made to obtain for the Sino-Soviet Bloc from other Member Countries technical data and/or plant equipment for the construction of plants which would manufacture embargoed polyester film, United States authorities hope that other Member Countries will take action paralleling that which has been taken by the United States.

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